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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EB-11 SCI-06 IO-14

DRC-01 /180 W
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R 011705Z MAR 74
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3061
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, CU
SUBJECT: HONECKER VISIT TO CUBA

REF:

A. BERLIN 335 (NOTAL)
B. MOSCOW 2017 (NOTAL)
C. BERLIN 275 (NOTAL)

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1. SED PARTY CHIEF HONECKER MADE HIS FIRST SALLY OUT OF

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EAST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST STRONGHOLD WHEN, IN ANSWER TO INVITATION FORM CASTRO, HE LED GDR HIGH-LEVEL PARTY/ GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO CUBA, FEBRUARY 20-26. ACCORDING TO MASSIVE EAST GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE, VISIT WAS MARKED BY ONE EFFUSIVE SOLDARITY DEMONSTRATION AFTER ANOTHER AS WELL AS CONSTANT PROTESTATIONS OF CUBAN/GDR LOYALTY TO CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM. PREDICTABLY, HONECKER AND CASTRO HELD STAGE CENTER, WITH PREMIER SINDERMANN, POLITBURO AGIT-PROP EXPERT LAMBERZ, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF ENTOURAGE RELEGATED TO RELATIVELY MINOR SUPPORTING ROLES.

2. JOINT CUBAN/GDR DECLARATIONS, ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT APPEARED IN MOST RESPECTS TO BE SLIGHTLY NUANCED REPEAT OF POSITIONS TAKEN DURING BREZHNEV TRIP (REF B). MAJOR POINTS OF GENERAL INTEREST INCLUDED:

A. SUPPORT FOR MOSCOW-ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT HEDGED ON OCCASION, TONE OF DECLARATION CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT CUBA HAS COME LONG WAY TOWARD ENDORSING ALL SOVIET FOREIGN. POICY PRIORITIES, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY DETENTE. GDR SEEMS TO HAVE DONE CONSIDERABLE SPADE-WORK IN THIS REGARD, FOR DECLARATION WORDING IS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IDENTIAL WITH USUAL GDR PUBLIC MOUTHINGS OF SUPPORT FOR MOSCOW LINE.

B. PRC-DESPITE INDICATION OF GDR PRODDING, CASTRO SUCCESSFULLY SIDESTEPPED ANY FRONTAL CRITICISM OF PEKING. HONECKER ATTACKED PRC DIRECTLY FOR PURSUING "GREAT POWER CHAUVINIST POLICIES" DURING MASS MEETING IN CIENFUEGOS ON FEBRUARY 24, BUT CASTRO REFUSED TO RISE TO BAIT. JOINT DELARATION, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO TAKE INDIRECT SWIPE AT PEKING BY SOUNDLY CONDEMNING "ANTI-COMMUNISM, ANTI-SOVIETISM, REVISIONISM AND CHAUVINISM", WHEREVER IT OCCURS.

C. U.S. POLICIES-BOTH CASTRO AND HONECKER WERE OBVIOUSLY INTENT ON AVOIDING ANY OUTRIGHT CONDEMNATION OF U.S. ONLY IN DEMAND THAT GUANTANAMO BE RETURNED TO CUBA FORTHWITH WAS U.S. MENTIONED DIRECTLY. CUBA BLOCK-

ADE AND LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS WERE SIMPLY LAID AT DOOR OF "IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM" GENERALLY.

D. LATIN AMERICA NOT SURPRISINGLY, BOTH SIDES CON-DEMNED "FASCIST PUTSCH" IN CHILE AND MADE USUAL APPEAL TO SAVE CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY BOSS, LUIS CORVALAN. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, BOTH ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR PERU'S "DETERMINED POLICY OF DEFENSE AND RECOVERY OF ITS OWN

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ECONOMIC RESOURCES", AND PRAISED PANAMANIAN EFFORTS TO ASSURE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER "ALL OF ITS TERRITORY".

3. IN ADDITIONA TO JOINT DECLARATION, CASTRO AND HONECKER SIGNEDAGREEMENTS ON: A) COOPERATION BETWEEN SED AND CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY; B) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION; C) CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES: D) GDR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR "ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT" INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE: AND E) INTENSIFIED COOPERATION IN CONSTRUCTION. TO DATE, TEXTS OF ABOVE AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED.BORG

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